

Amendments to the Claims: This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A tenderising machine applicable to the processing of pieces of boned meat, containing or not fatty materials or other loads, comprising:

at least two superposed tenderiser assemblies A and B, each integrating comprising a pair of rotatable axial-developed tenderising elements, with a number of cutting members, such as prongs or blades emerging from its surface, which are rotated, with the tenderising elements positioned close together, each pair of tenderising elements a defining an a respective aperture with regulable amplitude and with at least one of the said tenderiser elements from each assembly A and B supported with the possibility of and adapted to move moving further away with respect to the other tenderiser element, acting against an antagonist means said moveable tenderising elements adapted to be responsive to a load element during the passage of the pieces of meat which are pulled along by said pair of tenderising elements and pass between from said first pair of tenderising elements to said second pair of tenderising the two tenderiser elements by gravity;

means for each of the said tenderiser assemblies A and B to regulate the distance between the cutting members of each pair of tenderising elements rollers and to selectively block the movement of said at least one movable tenderising element tenderiser rollers for each assembly A, B.

2. (Previously Presented) A machine in accordance with claim 1, wherein at least one of the said tenderiser elements of each assembly A, B is governed in rotation by a motorised drive means.

3. (Currently Amended) A machine in accordance with claim 1, wherein said antagonist means have load element has an elastic nature.

4. (Currently Amended) A machine in accordance with claim 2, wherein the tenderiser elements are rotated, with the two tenderising elements of each assembly A and B, rotating in opposite directions and with different rotational speeds, so that they cooperate in the pull of the incoming pieces of meat and produce a stretching effect on them.

5. (Previously Presented) A machine in accordance with claim 2, wherein said means of motorised drive comprises at least one geared motor assembly and at least one flexible transmission.

6. (Currently Amended) A machine in accordance with claim 2, further comprising a single geared motor assembly and a single flexible transmission with all tenderiser elements for the machine transversally arranged to the passage of the pieces of meat, in mutual parallelism and on different levels, and driven by a pulling element fitted to one of its ends end of the each of the tenderising elements and coupled to the said flexible transmission.

7. (Previously Presented) A machine in accordance with claim 1, wherein said superposed tenderiser assemblies A, B are arranged with vertical alignment of the apertures for passage of the pieces of meat.

8. (Previously Presented) A machine in accordance with claim 1, wherein said superposed tenderiser assemblies A, B are arranged with out-of-phase alignment of the apertures for passage of the pieces of meat.

9. (Previously Presented) A machine in accordance with claim 1, wherein a tenderiser element of each tenderiser assembly A, B is supported in a fixed fashion on a machine bed.

10. (Previously Presented) A machine in accordance with claim 9, wherein the tenderiser elements of each tenderiser assembly A, B has parallel geometric axes.

11. (Previously Presented) A machine in accordance with claim 9, wherein the tenderiser elements are supported at their ends and the movable rollers tenderiser elements for each assembly A, B are coupled to a pivoting articulated lever which, in its mid zone is connected to a pusher assembly.

12. (Currently Amended) A machine in accordance with claim 11, wherein each of said tenderiser elements are comprised of an axial development body terminating in two end journals that rest on some supports comprising a seating bowl and a securing bowl, with said securing bowl adapted to be superposed on the seating bowl by rotation and/or linear movement and which can be fixed/freed by means of a retaining mechanism.

13. (Previously Presented) A machine in accordance with claim 11, wherein said pusher assembly comprises a shaft that is connected to an elastically-loaded element and contained in a support casing.

14. (Currently Amended) A machine in accordance with claim 13, wherein the support casings associated with the respective ends of each movable tenderiser element of the assemblies A and B are coupled by a transversal retaining rod that is connected by both ends to levers articulating to supports coupled to a machine bed, with the said retaining rod in turn related to a mechanism that controls its relative position with respect to the bed and regulable from one side of the machine by means-of-a wheel through a transmission element.

15. (Previously Presented) A machine in accordance with claim 11, further comprising means to selectively disable the movement of each of the pusher assemblies for the tenderiser elements, which can be moved in relation to the support casings, comprising a stop adapted to be interposed in the path of the said pusher assembly to immobilise it.

16. (Currently Amended) A machine in accordance with claim 14, wherein said stops are remotely operated from a wheel by means-of-a transmission selected from a group that includes a flexible transmission by cables.

17. (Previously Presented) A machine in accordance with claim 3, wherein said means of motorised drive comprises at least one geared motor assembly and at least one flexible transmission.

18. (Currently Amended) A machine in accordance with claim 3, further comprising a single geared motor assembly and a single flexible transmission with all tenderiser elements for the machine transversally arranged to the passage of the pieces of meat, in mutual parallelism and on different levels, and driven by a pulling element fitted to one of its ends end of the each of the tenderising elements and coupled to the said flexible transmission.